



A BALANCED VIEW

Chicago Convention --- Our 25th Anniversary

Chicago was the perfect place to celebrate the 25th year of the existence of ISASC! As everyone knows, Chicago is the home of Bob Stein, one of the co-founders, and President Emeritus, of our organization. Many congratulations are due Bob for the success of this, the last convention under his guidance. The attendance was as high as, or higher, than any previous gathering. In addition to the members from all over this country and Canada, we had guests from England, Germany, The Netherlands, and Argentina. Bob has prepared a separate convention report which accompanies this newsletter.

The typical Chicago weather --- all the way from beautiful blue skies to fog and rain blowing sideways --- seemed to enhance the enthusiasm for the program and side trips. I can say this because I had absolutely nothing to do with planning the activities. The Clock Collection at the Museum of Science and Industry is, indeed, a beautiful display.

As in previous years, Jerry Katz was able to gather a corps of collectors to display some unusual and unique scales and weights. Our thanks to you, Jerry, for a great show.

Also, thanks to Jerry Wilson for the publications sale at the Silent Auction. Total sales were about fifty percent higher than they had been at any previous convention.

A very special thanks to Ted Stein and his assistants for so ably handling the Silent Auction. Total sales were just under \$30,000! That is an amazing amount when you consider the relatively short period of time everyone had to look at all that was there. I had several members say to me that they thought that the extent and variety of scales and weights was far greater than at any other previous convention. As Norm Cima said "Where else could

you possibly buy a set of Polish Glass weights with stamped lead adjustments for \$130.00?" Also, the return of "Let's Make a Deal" at the end of the silent auction resulted in a lot of feverish activity.

Announcements in Chicago

ISASC Standing Foundation Committee

The Board of Directors announced the formation of a new standing committee which we are calling the Foundation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to plan for the establishment of a permanent and public exhibition of artifacts representative of our heritage in the field of scales, weights and weighing paraphernalia. Bill Everett, a long time active member of ISASC has most generously donated \$10,000 to get the planning process started. Bill has also proposed another \$100,000 grant to ISASC and, in addition, will bequeath to ISASC \$400,000 plus his own collection. Our many, many thanks to you, Bill. The committee will consist of five people to be chaired by Steve Beare. Other members are Jerry Wilson, a member of the Board of Directors, and Bill Doniger and Mary Ann Murphy, both of whom are not board members. I have not yet filled the fifth spot on the committee for a reason. I am asking if any of you would be interested in serving on this committee. The board is asking that each committee member be a member of ISASC for not less than three years. If anyone is interested, or if you wish to nominate someone, please contact me within two weeks from the time you receive this newsletter. We are most anxious to get the ball rolling!

Equilibrium (EQM)

The second announcement made at the convention in Chicago related to the editorial staffing of EQM. The Associate Editor of EQM, Ruth Willard, introduced members John and Geraldine Shannon who have joined the editorial staff and will be of great help to our ,

Editor, Diana Crawforth-Hitchins and Ruth. John and Geraldine are already assisting two members in the preparation of future articles.

On To Pittsburgh In 2002

The site of the 2002 ISASC Convention was announced in Chicago. It is Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania! After considering several proposed locations, your Board of Directors concluded that Pittsburgh, which has undergone some incredibly positive changes in recent years, would be an ideal site to celebrate the start of our next quarter century. The co-chairmen of the event are Ben Smith, who lives in Dearborn, Michigan, and Les Firth, who is from Mercer, Pennsylvania, which is not far from Pittsburgh. Both Ben and Les have had experience in planning and conducting conventions. Les has worked on conventions that have had attendance of many thousands of members. Pittsburgh residents Bill Everett and Mary Anne Murphy have agreed to assist in the planning. Mary Anne and her husband, David Spence, were most hospitable to Bob Stein when he visited Pittsburgh in February to secure a hotel for us. The convention will be held at the end of May next year so that there will be no conflict with the Mother's Day weekend. You will be receiving more information as the plans are completed.

Streeter Collection of Weights and Measures

Earlier this year Yale University approached ISASC and inquired about creating a home within our web site, isasc.org, for highlights of the Streeter Collection of Weights and Measures. Steve Beare, our "Webmaster", has been actively working out the details with Yale. This major collection was originally compiled by Dr. Edward Clark Streeter, a physician and medical historian. Dr. Streeter, who began collecting weights and measures in 1923, donated the collection to the Historical Medical Library at Yale University in

conjunction with the library's opening in 1941. There are approximately 3000 items in the collection, which can be viewed by appointment. Marinna Wilcox, widow of Dr. Streeter's son, John, has generously donated \$3000 to ISASC to cover our costs, and Paul Bessey has agreed to donate his time to digitally photograph key items. Steve and Ed Konowitz spent a day at Yale in May, met with Mrs. Wilcox and Yale's curator, Tony Appel, and reviewed the entire collection and selected 80 items to be included in the initial phase of the web site project. We expect to have the initial project completed by fall, and will add to it over time.

Changes in ISASC Europe

Not long ago we reported that Diana Crawforth-Hitchins had been elected Chairman of ISASC Europe. Due to family and personal health problems, Diana resigned as Chairman and in April of this year John Cheeseman was elected the new Chairman. Both John and his wife Betty came over and attended our convention in Chicago. John not only attended, but he also gave a talk on the government verification process of scales in England. I have known John for several years and have found him to be a most delightful man.

Speaking of ISASC Europe, if any of you are going to be in England this coming fall you ought to try to attend their next meeting. It will be held on October 7, 2001 at the Quality Hotel in Loughborough, England, which is at exit 23 of the M1. The site is about 15 miles north of Leicester. If you wish to attend, contact me and I will put you in touch with Janet Scarratt, who is their Meeting Secretary. I have been to several of their meetings and have greatly enjoyed them.

Buyer Beware!

Bob Stein sent me the following article that appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times. I have heard some horror stories about people buying scales on the internet and ending up with reproductions, and very bad ones at that. So, buyer beware!

Auction sites draw most Net complaints

Report: Illinois seventh among states where fraud perpetrators live

BY CHRISTOPHER NEWTON

WASHINGTON—Illinois ranks seventh among states where individual perpetrators of fraud on the Internet live, the FBI reports, and the Land of Lincoln is eighth among businesses that commit Net fraud.

The bureau's first report on the subject also shows that phony auction Web sites that disappear after taking people's money, and online shopping centers that never deliver the goods, are the two most reported instances of Internet fraud.

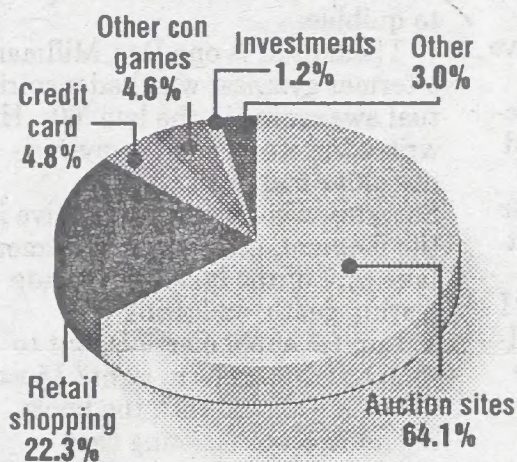
And while studies have shown that most online shoppers' greatest fear is having their credit card number misused or stolen, those schemes made up only 5 percent of complaints.

The report was a joint effort by the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center, a nationwide network supported by the Justice Department that helps law enforcement agencies combat economic and high-tech crimes.

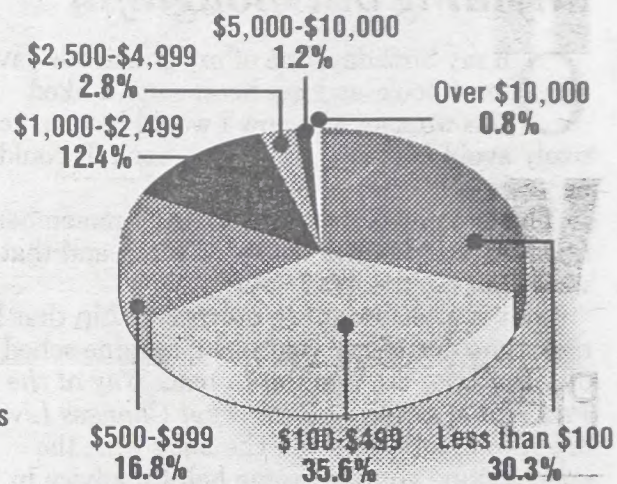
"It clearly demonstrates the need for establishing an electronic clearinghouse for the prompt receipt and referral of Internet fraud cases to the appropriate

AUCTIONS LEAD FRAUD PARADE

Breakdown of consumer complaints:



Consumers lose this much money to fraud:



Where individual fraud artists live:



Where business fraud perpetrators operate:



SOURCE: Internet Fraud Complaint Center

SUN-TIMES

law enforcement agencies," said FBI Director Louis Freeh.

In its first six months of operation, the report center recorded about 20,000 complaints. Of those complaints, 5,273 were classified as fraud by law enforcement agencies around the country.

The National White Collar Crime Center said the report shows the need for a renewed effort to help refine systems for

Internet transactions.

"E-business is no longer just a buzzword," said Texas state Securities Commissioner Denise Voigt Crawford, a board member of the National White Collar Crime Center. "It's here to stay, and we must find ways to help consumers and business have confidence in the transaction technology they choose."

Associated Press

Eugene P. "Gene" Mahoney 1925-2001

We were so sorry to hear of the passing of Gene Mahoney, who died of lung cancer at his home in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, on May 1, 2001. Gene was a long time collector and active contributor to EQUILIBRIUM. His first essay was published in 1998 In issue #3. Others followed at intervals, his latest just weeks before his untimely death.

Gene was the consummate researcher, invading with great success the inner circles of many archives and various museums in cities up and down the east coast.

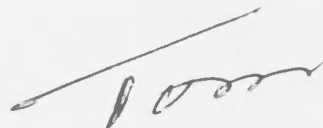
After military service in Europe during World War II, Gene came home and obtained mathematics and language degrees from the University of Michigan. He ultimately went into

teaching, retiring in 1985.

A member of ISASC since 1983, Gene was attracted to early American colonial scale boxes. His intense research in many places led him to discover the identities of the early American appointees responsible for the verification of colonial weights and measures.

Regional Get-Together

After talking with several members at the Chicago convention, Ralph Bergmann of San Rafael, California, has sent a letter to all the ISASC members who live in the northern California area suggesting an informal get-together in the fall. He sent out a questionnaire asking for the thoughts of others. Great idea, Ralph, count me in.



Tom Dooley, President
ISASC